

From: Eric Hilferding
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/25/02 8:45am
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Hello,

I am the President and CEO of Shirts & Caps in Zephyrhills, Florida. we are in the decorated garment & promotional product industry. My company also has developed a few software packages for Windows and Macintosh platforms. I have been interested and purchasing computer equipment for my business since 1982. It has been my observation that Microsoft has with out a doubt been acting outside fair practices. Many software packages that I have used that where better than any other product available where destroyed by the Microsoft methods of marketing. They have forced incompatibilities, and manuvered compediting products out of the marketplace - not through providing a better product or a better price - but through manipulating the customers access to the product. The Windows operating system has been the vehicle that Microsoft has used to push its other software packages. The most notable of these 'incidents' are as you know, the competing operating systems of PS/2, Linux, Macintosh. The most notable program Nestscape Navigator - a far superior product that was copied and killed by Microsoft. As a fledgling software developer we often joke about if we make it big one of two things will happen - Microsoft buys us out or kills our programs. I have no desire to compete with a company that uses the type of business practices that Microsoft uses.

It is my feeling that the only way to fix the problem is to split Microsoft into a minimum of 3 parts - the operating system, hardware and the software branches. Microsoft has now entered the hardware market with xbox - a fully functioning pentium 733. The only way to keep the playing field level is to break the unfair advantage that Microsoft abuses with its three branches. At the minimum the software and operating systems need to be split. I heard about the Microsft proposed settlement offer to donate to schools. I belive this was a manuver that was attempting to gain market share against one of only 2 OS competitors left - Apple. This attempt on their part signals that they do not entend to cooperate nor do they recognize the decision of the judge that determined they are in violation of anti-trust laws. They continue to act in arrogant defiance in the face of the United States of America and its people.

Thank you,

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